

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1167
ANSWERED ON:25.02.2003
THREAT TO MINORITY IN GUJARAT
SUBODH ROY

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news regarding atrocities on minorities in Gujarat appearing in the Rashtriya Sahara dated 10th January, 2003;
- (b) if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the people belonging to the minority communities are again being treated in an inhumane manner in Gujarat; and
- (d) if so, the action being taken by the Government against the such elements?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI)

(a) & (b): As per available information communal clashes were reported at Lunawada town of Panchmahal District in the first week of January, 2003 over taking photographs of voters for preparation of Identity Cards. There were stone pelting between Hindu and Muslim mobs and police had to resort to tear gas shelling, firing and imposition of curfew. Some shops/kiosks were damaged and 80 persons were arrested in this connection.

(c) & (d): No such specific information has been received. As regards progress in the investigation of the Godhra train carnage related communal riots 4257 offences have been registered, charge sheets have been filed in court of law in 2014 cases and 23777 accused have been arrested in substantive offences.